

systems controller (50) communicates with a coupon redemption center computer for coupon crediting and accounting. See col. 5, lines 19-39. Following the check-out procedure, the coupon file in the communication unit (14) is cleared. Col. 5, lines 1-5. In an alternative embodiment, the communication unit (14) is provided a transceiver so that it may receive data and be loaded with coupon information remotely. See col. 5, lines 40-44.

Applicant's invention, as now more clearly claimed, is directed to apparatus that is designed to interact with public forms of communication such as a wireless PDA communicating via the Internet. See page 4, paragraph [0012]. Moreover, a given merchant, along with other merchants, also communicates over public facilities. See page 6, paragraph [0016]. With this in mind, one may now better apprehend the environment of the claimed invention.

Claim 1 now requires that the coupon service provider be coupled to a public wide area network and service a plurality of valid merchants. Claim 1 also requires that a public wireless network be coupled to the public wide area network. The validity of the merchant must be checked before the coupon service provided provides approval. Since Begum only must deal with in-store coupons, Begum's store does not need to obtain approval for itself and this needed interconnection between elements is neither taught nor suggested by Begum. Therefore independent claim 1 is believed allowable and independent claim 4, having similar limitations not taught by Begum, is also believed allowable.

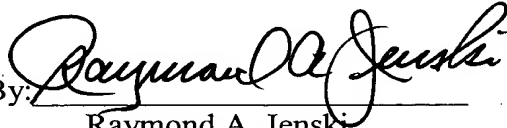
Claims 2 and 3 are dependent upon claim 1, which Applicant believes to be independent, and claim 5 is dependent upon a believed allowable independent claim 4. Claims 2, 3, and 5 are therefore believed to be allowable

As described above, all of the elements of independent claims 1 and 4 are not taught or disclosed by Begum. Accordingly, the requirements supporting a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) have not been met.

Applicants now believe that Examiner's rejections have been overcome in view of the amendment of claims and/or Applicants' argument, above, so that claims 1-5 are believed allowable. Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejections and pass the present Application, as amended, to allowance.

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